

BOOK REVIEW

ALLGEMEINE GEOMORPHOLOGIE.

Methoden, Grundvorstellungen und Ausblick in Landschaftshaushalt by Hanna Bremer. Bornträger, Berlin, 450 pp., 1990.

As the author states, this book is a long work initiated 20 years ago, motivated by the considerable amount of textbooks concerning geomorphological subjects, principally those carried out by German and English-speaking geomorphologists.

In spite of its title ("General Geomorphology, Methods, principles and perspectives on landscape evaluation", the book is focused on subjects related to climatic and climatogenetic geomorphology.

The work is devoted basically to theoretical analysis and criticism with regard to geomorphological methods, concepts and models. The subject is treated systematically, starting from particular approaches and concepts to reach a conception of relief in a landscape. The particular and earlier models are first considered as a background of contemporary climatic and climatogenetic geomorphology; new perspectives are suggested.

The textbook might have been improved with more diagrams and figures, even though the work is more concerned with theoretical issues.

At the end of every chapter and section, the reader will find a summary. This facilitated the present review.

The book is divided into three sections and an epilog. The first section is an introduction, where the author states the aim of the book and the background, and defines "climatic and climatogenetic geomorphology". English-speaking geomorphologists have often considered morphodynamics besides other landscape elements and processes (p. 35-36). In addition, she considers climatic geomorphology as the study of actual relief processes, so that climatogenetic geomorphology comprises the study of past processes, whenever they occurred.

In sections B and C, the systematics and the methods of research are expressed. The geomorphological and geological bases are analyzed, *i.e.*, the influences of lithological and tectonical factors, as well as exogenic factors such as river dynamics. As to factors influencing the relief, her criticism focuses on the use of ambiguous concepts such as erosion, denudation, base level, etc. The treatment of time and its variability, a subject often discussed recently by other authors, is also taken into consideration.

Dating methods are also discussed in this section, as well as mathematical models of relief study.

The author states that the principles are not static, "they have not been completely clarified, and therefore they can be enlarged, changed in other directions and even displaced".

In section C, she locates morphogenesis in a landscape intertexture. This reflects the concept of climatic geomorphology in a wider sense, as characteristic of the German research line. She considers the view of the whole landscape components for the study of relief. She points out that soil study and soil information could help in the interpretation of Quaternary environmental changes.

The work of Hanna Bremer differs from other classical works in its analytical viewpoint about methods, concepts and models. It is less instructive and general than earlier books. Moreover, it has relatively few figures.

Relief processes of arid and tropical environments are insufficiently considered, and the work of other than German and English-speaking geomorphologists is not mentioned.

Carlos Córdova F. de A.
Instituto de Geología, UNAM.

